

San Juan Basin Health's Role in the Gold King Mine Release



How
are
you?

SAN • JUAN • BASIN
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



AUGUST 5, 2015

- EPA conducts investigation of water release from Gold King Mine. Release occurs at 10:54am
- CDPHE releases spill report at 1:30pm

AUGUST 6, 2015

- Mustard-colored water waste becomes visible at Bakers Bridge around 8:00am.
- La Plata County Sheriff closes the Animas River at 4:00pm
- The plume reaches 32nd St. Bridge Durango at 7:30pm



AUGUST 7, 2015

- Joint Information Center opens
- EPA holds a public meeting

AUGUST 8, 2015

- Sampling data from 8/5 & 8/6 shows pH and metal concentrations are decreasing to pre-event conditions.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife are monitoring the effects of the release on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife
- Water in Cement Creek and the Animas River in Silverton is clearing
- Discharge is still decreasing; now approximately 500 gallons per minute
- EPA PIO holds a citizen meeting

AUGUST 9, 2015

- City, County and local Public Health declare state of local emergency
- President of Navajo Nation tours mine site
- LaPlata County Community Meeting



AUGUST 10, 2015

- EPA establishes a response center in Durango
- State of Colorado declares State of Disaster Emergency for the accidental release

AUGUST 11, 2015

- EPA conducts a portal tour for the Southern Ute Tribe and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment Water Quality Division
- Tour was followed by meeting with Tribal members and CDPHE
- Governor Hickenlooper visits Durango



AUGUST 12, 2015

- EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy visits Durango and Farmington, NM to inspect their response
- The Animas begins returning to normal color in Durango
- The county begins inspecting and flushing irrigation ditches

AUGUST 14, 2015

- At Noon, La Plata Sheriff reopens the Animas River to recreational use with health restrictions
- The City of Durango begins pumping water from the Animas



AUGUST 18, 2015

- Disaster Recovery Center open 10:00am - 4pm

AUGUST 5, 2015

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LA PLATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

742 Turner Drive Durango, CO 81303 970-247-1157 FAX 970-247-1618

RIVER CLOSED

By Order of the La Plata
County Sheriff, pursuant
to C.R.S. 33-13-111 &
112

Due to Gold King Mine Spill, the
Animas River is closed to
recreational use until further notice.

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015 at 3:00PM



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- EPA holds a public meeting



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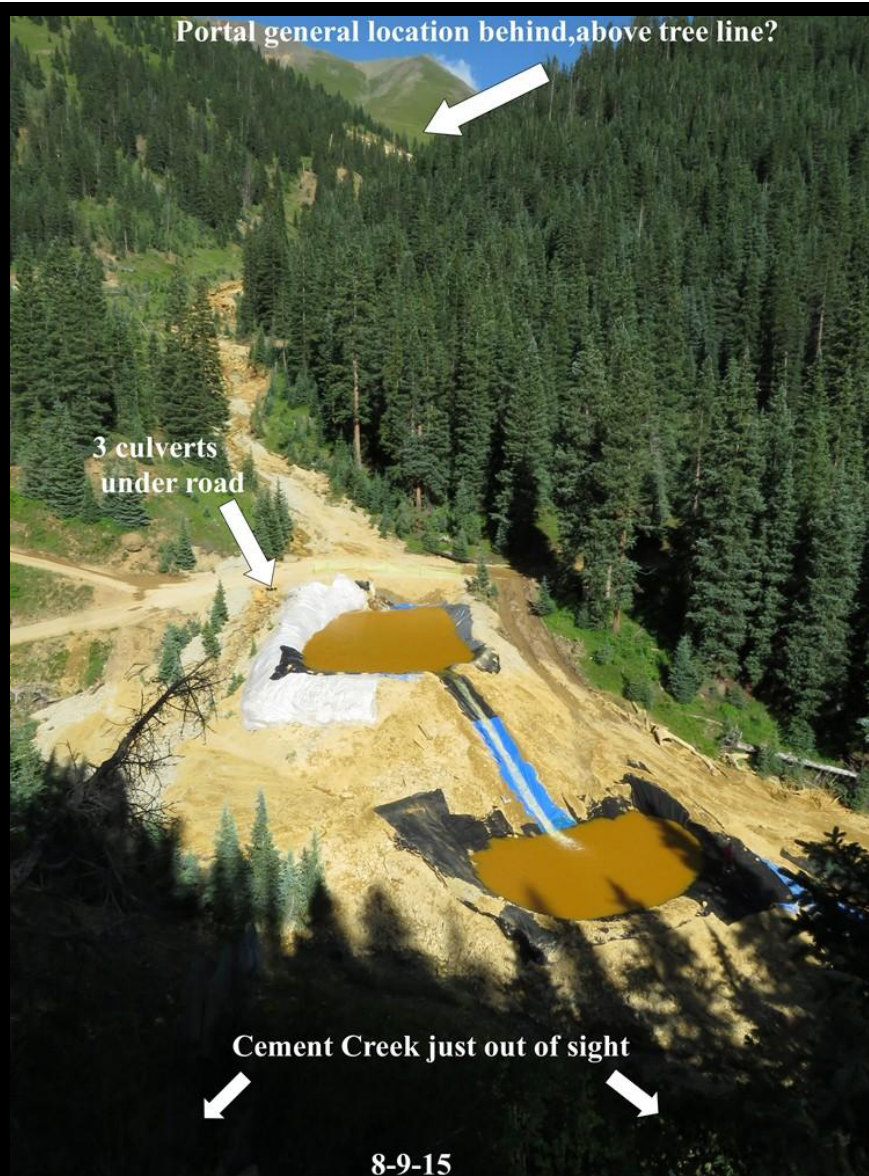




8-9-15

Gold King Portal





AUGUST 11, 2015

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A photograph of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy speaking at a wooden podium outdoors. She is wearing a white shirt and glasses, and has her mouth open as if speaking. The podium is equipped with several microphones. Behind her is a brick wall and some red flowers. A hand is visible on the right side of the frame, holding a smartphone to record the speech.

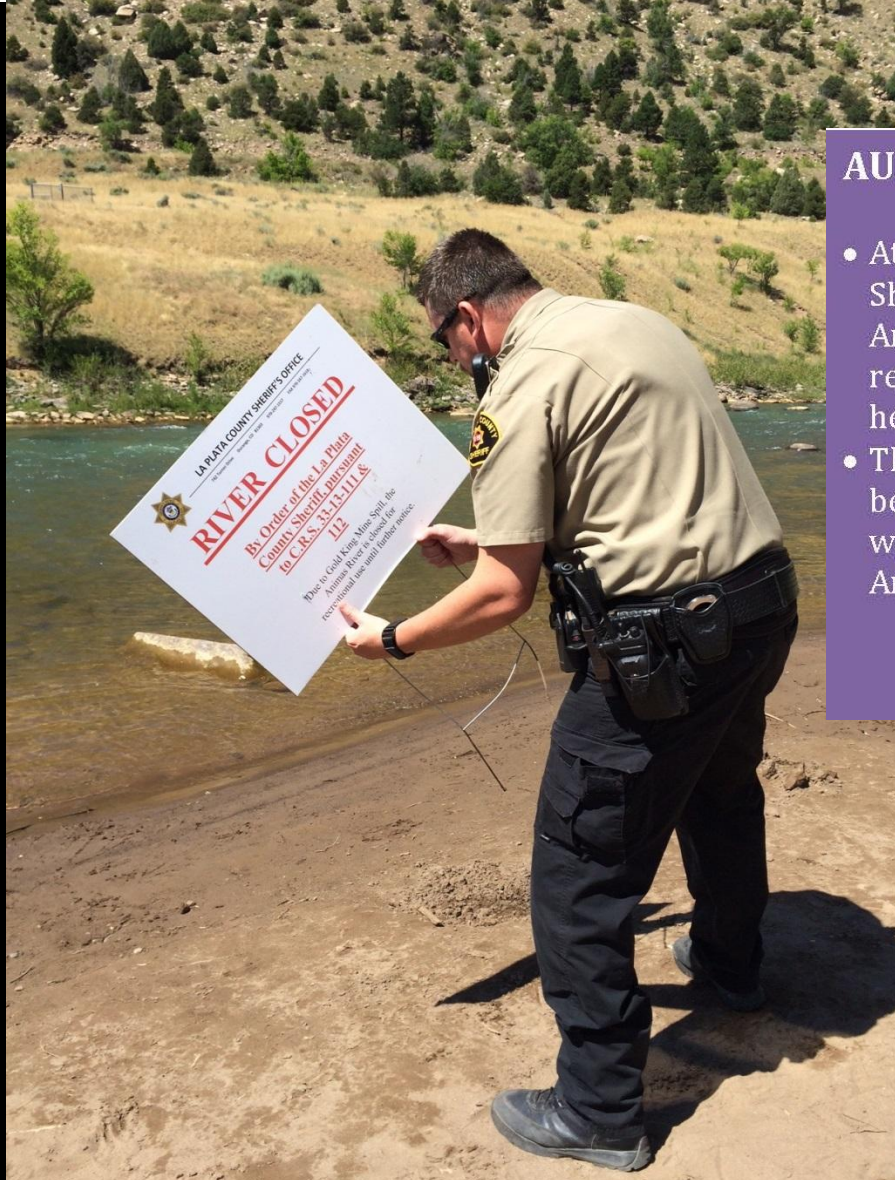
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Animas River Health Advisory

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has collected and analyzed water quality and sediment from the Animas River. The data indicates that the river has returned to stable conditions that are not a concern for human health during typical recreational exposure. There will be some discoloration of the water when the sediment is disturbed, this discoloration does not pose an immediate health risk.

The San Juan Basin Health Department concurs with the state health department findings, and advises that there are no adverse health effects from exposure to the water and sediment during normal recreational use (incidental or limited exposure). The San Juan Basin Health Department advises the public to avoid areas with orange sediment or discolored standing water. Further, anyone coming in contact with any orange sediment or discolored standing water should wash with soap and water.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will continue to test water and sediment routinely and will respond quickly to any potential issues. Visit the [state health department website](#) for data and updates. The San Juan Basin Health Department will remain in contact with state health department and will provide any updates and public health recommendations as necessary.

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015 at 12:00 PM

San Juan Basin Health 281 Sawyer Drive #200 Durango, Colorado 81303 970-247-5702



Looking Forward

What Happens Next

- EPA and CDPHE are creating a long term watershed monitoring plan
- EPA is developing a long term treatment plan for the Gold King Mine drainage
- SJBH is working on a strategic communications plan